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ADDRESS

AT THE CONVOCATION OF

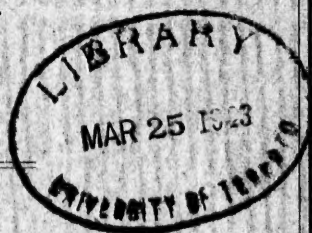
The University of Toronto

OCTOBER 1, 1890.

BY

SIR DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., F.R.S.E.,

PRESIDENT.



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PRESIDENT.

WHATEVER notable events may hereafter give prominence to exceptional periods in the annals of this University, the present year must ever stand out conspicuously in its history as an *annus mirabilis*. That we are to-day indebted to the courtesy of an affiliated institution for the hall in which to inaugurate the work of another year, recalls to us—if any remembrancer could be needed,—that the stately building in which the work of the University had progressed from comparatively humble beginnings, and a limited attendance, to its present numbers and efficiency, stands roofless and defaced by fire. But happily stone walls and architectural adornments do not constitute the essentials of University life. Deplorable as the calamity has proved, the vigour of the institution was not to be palsied by a disaster that reduced to ruin the stately pile in which its graduates took so just a pride. It has been accredited to us that we did not despair; and had we ever been tempted to do so, the generous sympathy so promptly extended to us by liberal benefactors was well calculated to revive the most faint-hearted.

It is impossible within the limits of an anniversary address to enumerate the prized contributions to the library, already amounting to upwards of twenty-five thousand volumes. From Her Majesty the Queen have been received costly and beautifully bound works, which I trust will survive to be the pride of many generations of graduates ; perpetuating the loved and revered name of Victoria, on our roll of benefactors. Gifts, including works from their own pens, as well as other valuable additions to the library, have been received from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Prince of Monaco, the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Argyle, the Marquis of Ripon, the Marquis of Lorne, the Dowager Lady Vernon, and other noble donors.

The academies and learned societies of Europe and America to whose liberality we are indebted for valuable contributions of their transactions, proceedings, and other publications, will be recorded with grateful pride when our lists of benefactors are extended in becoming form. To many among the leading publishing houses of England, France, Italy, Germany, and the United States, our acknowledgements are no less heartily due.

Not only to the British Government ; but to the Governments of France, Sweden, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, and the United States, we have to render grateful acknowledgments for aid in restoring to the University the indispensable appliances of a well-furnished library.

From his Excellency, the Governor-General of India, personally, as well as from the Secretary of State for India ; from Australia ; from the colonies of Victoria and New South Wales ; and from the Asiatic Society of Tokyo, Japan : prized contributions have reached us, accompanied with greetings of kindly sympathy that give an additional value to such practical manifestations of good will. One of the latest of such welcome greetings comes to us from Victoria, a sister colony at the Antipodes, stating that the gift is sent as "a mark of sympathy with the University in its recent troubles ; of respect for the high

courage with which they were met ; and in token of a warm desire for closer relations between two great colonies of the British Empire."

No less cheering have been the prized gifts from sister universities. The costly liberality of Oxford, comprises a selection of choice volumes to the value of £500 sterling, from the publications of the Clarendon press ; every one of them a welcome contribution to our shelves. Cambridge sends its gift of like character, including the entire publications of the Pitt press. From Trinity College, Dublin ; the universities of Christiania, Marburg, Strasburg, and Upsala ; from Harvard, Columbia College, Princeton, Cornell, Michigan, Amherst, Johns Hopkins, Kansas, and other American universities ; from the University of Melbourne, and our own Canadian universities and colleges ; as well as personally from members of their Faculties : we gratefully acknowledge many valued contributions.

Finally, the works presented to us, at such a time, by their own authors, will constitute a feature in the new University Library that cannot fail to possess a peculiar charm for all who enjoy the privilege of their use. They include a complete set of the works of the Poet Laureate, Alfred, Lord Tennyson ; of Professor Jowett, Sir William Dawson, Professor J. Stuart Blackie, Dr. Brinton, Dr. Francis Parkman, Professor Piazzi Smith, Sir Lyon Playfair, President G. Stanly Hall, Dr. G. Humphrey, Dr. G. Birbeck Hill, and many others, whose names and valued gifts will be set forth in full, in the final report of the Library Committee. But along with those, one other class of contributions calls for special notice. For we must rank with authors' gifts, others received from the representatives of those who still live in their works, and "rule our spirits from their urns ;" and foremost among such are the volumes that come to us from Mr. Robert Barrett Browning, the son of England's great poet so recently laid to rest in Westminster Abbey, and of England's gifted poetess who lies apart, under the cypresses, in the city of Dante. With a keen sense of the exceptional value of this complete set of the works of those whose names and

blood are united in their donor, it will be no unpardonable digression to recall the poet-mother's apostrophe to himself, where, in the desponding close of lines dedicated to what then seemed Italy's abortive struggle for liberty, she thus turns for brighter omen to her boy :—

“The sun strikes through the window, up the floor ;
 Stand out in it my own young Florentine,
 Not two years old, and let me see thee more !
 Now fix thy brave, blue English eyes on mine,
 And from my soul, which fronts the future so
 With unabashed and unabated gaze,
 Teach me to hope for what the angels know
 When they smile clear, as thou dost.”

But while I note in this inadequate summary, with no less pleasure than gratitude, the manifestations of sympathy from those whose generous recognition of the status already achieved by this University bears with it a special value at this time : we no less heartily recognize the timely aid extended to us in other forms. The presentation plate on numerous volumes in our restored library will perpetuate a record of the services rendered to us in our time of need by the influential English committee over which the Marquis of Lorne presides ; and which has for its efficient honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Sir George Baden-Powell and Mr. Stavely Hill. Nor do we less heartily appreciate our obligations for timely aid in another form from His Excellency the Governor General of India ; the Honourable the Premier and the Legislature of Quebec ; the Goldsmiths' Company of London ; the Colonial Institute of Great Britain, and other generous contributors to the Building Restoration Fund : including those among the citizens of Toronto who have thus come to our aid. As we recall the latter, we shall ever gratefully revert to that meeting of the Faculty, summoned while still the smoke rose from those blackened walls, now happily in process of renovation ; when the hearts of the most desponding revived at the announcement of Mr. Edmund B. Osler's timely aid of \$10,000 ; followed soon after by the cheering message of a like gift flashed across the Atlantic by Mr. George Gooderham,

immediately on the cabled news reaching him while travelling abroad.

To the Government and the Legislature of the Province our acknowledgments are due for their prompt response to the appeal urged by us in our utmost need. Nor can I regard it as otherwise than a result compensating in no inconsiderable degree for all the anxieties and toil that the disastrous conflagration involved; for all the bright hopes dissipated; for plans frustrated and irreparable losses sustained: that it has called forth a manifestation of devotion to their Alma Mater among our own graduates which, to myself and my colleagues, has proved an ever reassuring and sustaining influence through the trials of those eventful months. To the secretary of the committee of graduates, Mr. Walter Barwick, we owe a debt of gratitude which will find its best recognition in the enduring fruits of his own indefatigable labours.

But while we are thus cheered on all hands by kindly sympathy and generous aid, there is one exception which it is impossible I should overlook. The university buildings which were reduced to ruin by the conflagration of last February had been for upwards of thirty years one of Toronto's foremost attractions. The revenues, moreover, of the university are expended here; and with its Faculty, the hundreds of its students, the affiliated colleges, along with numerous families attracted to the city by its unrivalled educational advantages: the financial results are such as any city in the province would think well purchased by the most liberal bonus. We were not without hope that in this crisis the University would meet with generous aid from the city whose names it bears. Apart from the vote of the Legislature, which, with the amount of insurance will, we hope, suffice to reinstate the university buildings in all their former beauty; we shall still be unprovided with Library, Gymnasium, and Convocation Hall, all of which are indispensable to the efficient work of the University. The space formerly occupied by the Library and our inadequate Convocation Hall, will now be utilized to meet the ever increasing demands for

needful accommodation for new departments of instruction and larger classes. It has also been deemed wise to avail ourselves of the opportunity thus forced upon us to introduce the system of library and seminary arrangements which the experience of some of the foremost European universities, and of those of the United States, has proved to largely increase the educational value of the library; while it admits of adequate protection from such a disaster as that which has robbed us of the fruits of thirty-five years of careful expenditure of our Library Fund. A library building is our first and most pressing need. Teachers and students will be seriously hindered in their work till it is secured; nor can we view without grave apprehension the present temporary housing of the valuable nucleus of our new library; exposed to a possible recurrence of the appalling event of recent months. The lowest estimated cost of this building is \$60,000. Such a gift from the city of Toronto to its University, in this its hour of need, would be a graceful act of timely liberality, for which it would receive ample return. Nor can I abandon the hope that Toronto will set the example to the other cities of Ontario; and so enable us to appeal to them for a practical recognition of the fact that the University, its land and revenues, as well as all the high advantages it offers, are not local, but belong to the whole Province, and extend their influence far beyond its bounds.

At the Tercentenary celebration of the University of Edinburgh, in 1884, its Chancellor remarked: "The College of Edinburgh, which afterwards developed into the present university, has been called the child of the reformation; but it had another parent. It could expect no aid from pope or prelate; but just as little did it receive from royal or noble patrons in its early days. What more exalted personages failed to do for the metropolis of Scotland, the citizens did for themselves; and it cannot be too extensively known that Edinburgh owes the foundation of its university to the corporation of the city." When, in the year 1927—a date that lies within the bright summer-tide of you who to-day enter on your under-

graduate course,—my successor shall, with grateful pride, review the history of this University on the completion of the first century from the date of its Royal Charter: though it will not be possible for him to speak of it as the child of our "Queen City," I trust he may be able to appeal to honourable tokens of appreciation by those who shall then, through successive generations, have enjoyed the inestimable blessing of a well-equipped seat of learning planted in their midst.

For upwards of a third of that century it has been my privilege to share in the work of the University; and it is impossible to revert to the progress that those years have witnessed without pride and pleasure. But I realize no less keenly how much remains to be done; for every advance we make only increases our wants. The Senate and Faculty have just completed their quinquennial revision of the prescribed courses of study embraced in all the departments in Arts and Science. The building devoted to Biology and its related branches of study is being largely extended, with all requisite accommodation for the museums indispensable to the work of the department. The plans now matured, and in progress of execution, for the restoration of the main buildings provide for other important additions. During the years that have elapsed since co-education was introduced we have been struggling with ever increasing impediments, in our aim to satisfy the just requirements of the new claimants for "equal rights." Now, for the first time, we shall be able to secure adequate accommodation, along with other provisions indispensable for achieving the highest attainable results. It cannot be justly charged against the designers of the University buildings that they failed to anticipate this or other important changes, including the restoration of the suspended faculties of Law and Medicine; and the creation of an affiliated School of Practical Science. As for the too straightened limits of the old Convocation Hall, a younger generation of graduates may probably be unaware that, when we first assembled under its roof, we were censured for the extravagant scale of our building, and the quixotic anticipations of unattainable progress. Lecture rooms,

greater in number, and of more adequate proportions have now been planned, and additional laboratories provided ; including ample accommodation for the departments of Physics and Psychology. And, happily, at the very time when we are thus enabled, as we trust, adequately to equip the Department of Physics, we are cheered by the welcome announcement that Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851, have placed at the disposal of this University a scholarship of the annual value of £150 sterling, for the encouragement of study and research in the prosecution of science with a view to its application to industrial arts. The scholarship is accordingly limited to Physics, Mechanics, and Chemistry. For the latter department extended facilities are rendered necessary by the increasing number of students ; and for Geology and Mineralogy we need not only new lecture rooms and laboratory, but also a museum of ampler dimensions than the one which, with its valuable collection perished in the flames. For the Department of Ethnology provision is being made in the restored building. The valuable collections formed for the prosecution of this important branch of study were partially rescued from the fire. The losses include valuable ethnical and archæological specimens. But already important contributions, including a choice collection of palæoliths from the French drift, the gift of Dr. John Evans, have helped to repair the loss. Further gifts of duplicates from Washington, Harvard, Anne Arbor, McGill, and other museums are assured to us so soon as the building is ready for their reception. Similar liberality gives assurance of the reinstatement of the geological collections, including the branches of palæontology and mineralogy. Thus stimulated to renewed energy not only by the necessities which our recent calamity has created, but no less so by the practical sympathy it has called forth, we aspire to more efficient equipment in every department than what previously existed. For on all hands progress is indispensable. The admonition of Bacon is as true now as in his younger century : "not to advance is to go back." But the financial element here presses itself on our notice ; and compels us to admit that without

adequate revenues the ideal of an efficient University is unattainable. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who has devoted the fruits of his own successful industry to the founding of free libraries, and the advancement of higher education ; questions " the wisdom of founding many, if indeed any, new Universities. More good," he says, " is henceforth to be accomplished by adding to, and extending those already in existence."

I have referred to the provision aimed at in our renovated buildings of an adequate laboratory for experimental psychology. We mourn this year the destruction of our museums and library, with the loss of collections indispensable to the work of teachers and students. At our last Convocation it was not the lost tools, but the gifted workman that we mourned. One whom all loved as a colleague, and revered as a wise teacher, had passed away ; and we sorrowfully realised the calamity sustained, while we awaited with anxious expectation the choice of a successor. The appointment since then to the vacant chair of Dr. James Mark Baldwin, a student of philosophy who has already made his name widely known in the branches of psychology and psychophysics, has been welcomed as a valuable addition to the faculty ; while we look forward with high anticipations to the extension of the efficiency of the Department of Philosophy by the filling of the additional chair instituted by the Act of 1885, by one of our own graduates, Mr. James Gibson Hume, who, after pursuing his post-graduate studies with eminent success at Harvard, is now completing his preparatory training at the University of Berlin, before entering on his duties here, in his own favorite department of philosophy. We shall welcome his return to his Alma Mater enriched with fresh acquisitions from old seats of learning, and with the wider culture which travel supplies.

In enumerating the wants that press on us on every hand I have not, thus far, alluded to the College Residence. Yet I regard this as a most important element in the healthful working of the University. The federation scheme, now happily assured of healthful extension by the recent act of the General Conference of the Methodist Church, secures the residence of an import-

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ant section of University students in the Theological and other Colleges of their respective churches. But there still remains a class of students whose parents—some of them themselves graduates of the University,—welcome the opportunity of placing them in residence under the care of the Dean and College Council. The wide-spread feeling among the graduates in favour of the perpetuation of this feature of College life was unmistakeably demonstrated in the correspondence published during the past year. Already as a result of this, I have received contributions toward the extension of the College Residence, including a gift of £100 sterling, forwarded from Edinburgh by a gentleman who occupies an honourable position among the men of science there. In the accompanying letter he says: "I take great interest in the formation of College Residences; and should like to give my contribution towards this part of your scheme of University extension. The want of College Residence is one of the great weaknesses of the Scottish system. An effort is now being made here to meet it by the founding of a University Hall."

Thus we see a silver lining to the cloud that seemed for a time to gather over us with portentous gloom. Stimulated to increased energy, and encouraged by the generous sympathy that our calamity has called forth, our aim is now to place the University on a footing adequate to the great work that lies before it; and to the requirements of our young Dominion, only now entering on the occupation of the vast territory out of which is to be fashioned a Greater Britain, worthy of the motherland through whom its title is derived. How much yet remains for us to do in the very initial stage of development may be inferred from the conclusion arrived at by Dr. George Dawson, after years of exploration as a member of the Geological Survey service, that there is still an area of fully 500,000 square miles east of the MacKenzie River, lying within the line of the great fertile belt, of which as yet we know less than of the interior of Africa. The teeming populations of the old world look with longing eyes to this land of promise, with its millions of acres needing only willing hands to make

them yield golden harvests; while the student of history turns with eager expectancy, from ransacking the buried records of decayed monarchies, to survey a virgin continent on which the British colonist has already sketched out prospective States: The Saskatchewan, The Alberta, the Keewatin, The Assinaboia, and The Athabaska of the the twentieth century. It is on those who are now in training in our Universities; who are being equipped and armed, by high culture and wise discipline, for the work that lies before them: that in no small degree it will depend whether or not the sanguine dream of the philosophic idealist shall be realised; and:—

“There shall be sung another golden age,
The rise of empire, and of arts;
Inspiring history's illumined page
By wisest heads and noblest hearts.”

The opening up of this vast wilderness as a new centre of civilization gives a practical significance to the widening of the intellectual horizon, and the expansion of knowledge in so many unlooked for aspects. In whatever light we view it, the practical importance of higher education, as a grand factor in material progress, becomes ever more apparent; and the economic value of applied science is already so universally appreciated that scarcely any limit can be set to the demands for ampler services. And while we are looking with sanguine eagerness on this birth-time of our Western domain, the old East is waking up to new life; and testifies its sympathy in the trials of our own University. Europe and America are paying back their debt to the birth lands of letters and civilization. Schools and Colleges are being planted in British India; and letters and science receive a hearty encouragement in Japan; at the very time when the recovered tablets and inscriptions of Babylonia and Egypt disclose evidence of an Eastern civilization dating fifteen centuries before the Christian era, and startle us by their novel elucidations of sacred and profane history.

But while the East is brightening with a new dawn; and the Old World seems everywhere awakening to a sense of the practi-

cal value of intellectual culture, even in its most recondite aspects : it is with a sense of amused wonder that our attention is challenged by a sudden outbreak of disparagement of higher education from sundry very dissimilar quarters. Man has once more plucked of the Tree of Knowledge, and it proves, as of old, to bear both good and evil fruit. Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers ; and instead of fostering it till its later fruitage : not only crafty statesmen, and selfish speculators eager in the pursuit of gain, denounce the popularizing of education ; but some whose own example is the best evidence of its worth are found preaching a gospel of ignorance as the panacæa for the age. The Czar of Russia is credited with the assertion that education lies at the root of Nihilism, and all its attendant troubles. Bismarck, we are assured, traces the industrial discontent, and the world-wide social revolts, of which Germany has its full share, to the same source. High ecclesiastical authorities greet with like monitory warning the ever-widening diffusion of knowledge. That an outcry against the mischievous popularisation of knowledge should reach us from Russia, and find a sympathetic echo in the breast of Germany's astute and imperious ex-chancellor, need not surprise us. But it is impossible to see without regret a tendency among our own intelligent working classes to regard with jealousy and disfavour anything beyond the public school work, as though High Schools and Colleges were designed solely for a privileged caste, and not for the people. Even in our Legislative Assembly this sentiment has found utterance ; while traders and speculators join in a common wail over the diversion of the rising generation from industrial pursuits. Our forests are in danger of being neglected by the lumberman ; the plough, of rusting in the weedy furrow ; and the counting house and store of being deserted, while our young men overstock the professions, and waste a profitless life in genteel penury ! If such is really the case it may be safely left to work its own cure. Poverty has no special charms even though it flaunt a doctor's title, or hide its threadbare garments under a barrister's gown. But is it really so ? When the Act of 1853

established the University on its present basis, the population of Toronto amounted to about 40,000; now it is reckoned at upwards of 150,000 souls. It is surely a natural result of this, with its accompanying increase of wealth, and extension of professional openings, that students should come in greater numbers to our halls. We have, I trust, as Canadians, some higher ambition than to be the mere lumbermen, wheat-growers, and pork-packers for the world. But are the forests meanwhile abandoned to unproductive waste, or our fields left untilled? It is true that students, counted by dozens within my earlier experience, are now reckoned by hundreds; but the same period has witnessed the growth of towns along the shores of Lake Superior, and in the great wilderness beyond, where in the same earlier years I have camped out among wild Ojibways, and more frequently seen the bear and the musk rat than even the red Indian. Still more, on the prairies of the North-west where herds of buffaloes then roamed at will; and only the Hudson Bay trapper interfered with the Cree and Blackfoot savage: the province of Manitoba, with its fertile farms and industrious settlers, has already one million fourteen thousand acres under cultivation; with a yield of wheat for the present season estimated at 20,000 bushels. The wilderness thus reclaimed to the services of civilization has been in a large degree the work of our own farmers' sons, who have deserted the older farm lands of Ontario, not to plough the classic field, nor in search for easy professional gains; but solely from the greater attractions of the virgin soil of the prairies.

No delusion can be greater than the assumption that the highest intellectual culture is inimical to trade and commercial enterprise. The Florence of the middle ages - the city of Dante and Giotto, of Petrarch, Boccaccio, Michael Angelo and Galileo, was the centre of trading industry and wealth when Sheffield and Birmingham were rustic hamlets, and Lancashire and Yorkshire mere grazing farm-lands. Edward III. owed to the bankers of Florence the means of equipping the yeomen who conquered at Cressy and Poitiers: and when Italian art and letters degene-

rated with her loss of freedom, trade followed them to other centres beyond the Alps. Antwerp, the later hive of European industry, where the raw wools of England were returned to her from the loom; and where the great annual fairs attracted merchants from all lands: was also the home of Gruter and Ortelius; of Reubens, Vandyke, and Teniers; and Quintin Matsis, the blacksmith of Antwerp, ranks among the most prized artists of the low countries. Those are but examples of the general law. He must have read history to little purpose who has yet to learn that commerce and manufactures have in all ages found their common centres with arts and letters. The Cartoons of Raphael are the products of his genius enlisted in the service of the loom; and England's famous Wedgwood ware owed its worth to the same artistic skill that gave the charm to Flaxman's Homer. It would be a wasteful employment of exceptional energy to systematically divert men of such capacity into the ordinary service of trade. But it is the dilettante and the poetaster, not the man of genius, to whom such work is impossible. Chaucer was entrusted with the negotiation of a commercial treaty with Genoa; and subsequently appointed comptroller of the customs in the port of London. Milton was the Latin secretary of the Commonwealth, and the defender of its policy against all assailants. Newton filled the office of master of the mint. Among England's successful bankers, are the poet Rogers, author of "The Pleasures of Memory;" Grote, the eminent scholar and historian; and Lubbock, distinguished among British archæologists, and Chancellor of the University of London; while William Morris, foremost in the ranks of England's younger generation of poets, possibly our future Poet Laureate: is one of her most skilled manufacturers, successful as the rival in fictile art of Meissen and Sévres porcelain.

In the rivalry among civilized nations for supremacy in the world's marts, the race will be to the swift, and the battle to the strong; and strength in such rivalry means intellectual supremacy. Sir Joshua Reynolds, when questioned what he painted with, by a tyro who fancied that he could thus snatch the secret

of the master's art, replied : " With brains ! " For the true equipment of our young Dominion, education cannot be too high. With our excellent public schools accessible to all ; our free libraries ; our unshackled printing press—unshakled even by an honest respect for the author's right of property in his work of pen and brain,—knowledge is widely diffused ; but it is mainly superficial. Smatterers in science cavil at revealed truth ; and amateur newspaper correspondents undertake to solve problems that have baffled profoundest thinkers. The vastness of the ever-widening field of knowledge stands out in startling contrast to all that the gifted instructor, or the most ardent student, can overtake in the brief years of an undergraduate course ; but this at least we seek to secure, that whatever is done here shall be thoroughly done. And if among the contestants in the intellectual arena there are some to whom knowledge brings its own sufficing reward : the world needs its thinkers no less than its doers. It is their province to lay broad and deep the foundations of abstract truth, on which their successors build for purposes of utility. Without them the marvellous utilizations of science for the daily service of man which preeminently characterise the present age, would have been impossible. No nation can flourish by a trafficking in knowledge as the mere outfit for professional life. Yet I am persuaded from long experience, that no training is better qualified to fit men for many practical duties than the persistent diligence of systematized study in any of the departments of University honour work. It is accordingly with peculiar pleasure that I note among the acquisitions of the present year, the founding of the Ramsay Scholarship in Political Economy, the gift of one of our leading bankers, in evidence of his recognition of the practical utility of the training now given in this University in the liberal course of studies embraced in the Department of Political Science.

That higher education in a young country like this—as indeed to some considerable extent in all countries,—will be turned to account for professional training, is inevitable. We may recognize the charms of divine philosophy as " a perpetual feast of

nectared sweets," but the prosaic realities of life forbid our sitting down to its enjoyment. The revolution that has marked the progress of school education in Ontario during the last thirty years has been traceable in no small degree to the training which fitted our graduates to step into the vacant masterships of its High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. In spite of the crusade against professional training, which led for a time to the suspension of the medical and law faculties: the practical value of a liberal education has been attested by the honourable rank won by the graduates of this University in the learned professions. As instructors in Colleges, and in Schools of Science and Medicine, they have reflected honour on their Alma Mater; while in the legal profession they have not only distinguished themselves at the bar, but among them are already numbered a Chief Justice, a Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and eminent Judges. In the recent provisions for the efficient equipment of the Departments of Biology and Physiology it is inevitable that the students of medicine will largely profit by the advantages thus brought within their reach. It was a practical commentary on the inexpediency of abolishing the medical faculty of King's College that the Medical Schools of Anne Arbor, Buffalo, and Montreal were the resorts of hundreds of students from Ontario, seeking advantages there that they could not command at home. It is in the interest of all that our medical men shall be thoroughly educated; and I have little fear that the people of Ontario will sympathize in a protest against improvements in the department of Biology or any other branch of study, lest perchance the students of medicine avail themselves of its advantages; and so some half educated practitioners may be superseded by men thoroughly informed in the science of their profession. Our aim in the Faculty of Arts is high culture in its truest sense; the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, and wholly independent of mere professional requirements. But if a result of such training is to secure able and scholarly teachers for our schools; for our bankers, men of clearer insight into the principles on which the wealth of nations depends; for lawyers and judges, men of

cultivated intellect, trained in wide fields of philosophic speculation, and taught to control the license of rhetoric by inductive logic, and the highest laws of ethics; and for physicians men who have advanced beyond the stage of clinical instruction, and as scientific experts can render a reason for the course that they pursue: this is assuredly a public gain.

In the recent revision of the scheme of studies prescribed by this University in all the departments of letters and science, while availing ourselves of the experience of other Universities, the special needs of our Province and of the Dominion, have been kept steadily in view. Canada has rare and exceptional advantages. As a people, we share in all the grand historic past of the mother-land; while we enjoy an immunity from impediments involved in some of time's bequests to her. We inherit what it scarce seems hyperbole to speak of as a boundless territory, unencumbered, and ours to make of it what we will. The training of those who ere long must be called upon to take part in the carrying out of this transformation, is the work of our schools and colleges. It is for us as teachers, not only to guide the student through his prescribed undergraduate course; but to animate him with the resolve to turn the knowledge acquired here, to wise account; to stimulate him with the ardour of proud hopes and noble endeavours;

" To arouse the deeper heart,
Confirm the spirit glorying to pursue
Some path of steep ascent and lofty aim."

Never was there a time when the responsibilities were greater or more urgent. Our young Dominion throbs with eager, undefined longings and aspirations: "yearning for the large excitement that the coming years will yield." It is of vital importance that such aspirations be wisely directed, and the true goal be kept in view. There is a tempting halucination in the acquisition of a domain that stretches from ocean to ocean. The rhetoricians of the neighbouring Republic have yielded only too freely to its seductions. Emanuel Leutzé's fine alegorical frescoe in

the capitol at Washington, pictures the pioneers of the Pacific States as they surmount the crest of the Rocky Mountains; and beneath it is the motto :—

“The spirit grows with its allotted space ;
The mind is narrowed in a narrow sphere.”

But however just the pride with which we enter on the task of fashioning out of the savage wilderness of half a continent, the provinces and states of the future, history teaches us other lessons. If breadth of mind is coincident with amplitude of territory Russia ought to be the centre of Europe's intellectual life ; and England the narrow sphere of bigotry and ignorance. The lamented historian John Richard Greene, charmed all readers with his “*Making of England*,” but his fascinating volume suffices to show that it is men not acres that go to the making of great nations. From a little speck on the world's map, lying between the mountains of Moab and the sea have come the melodies of sacred song, and the inspired lessons that still glow with living power for the regeneration of the world. The land of Hellas and the islands of the Ægean Sea were the nurseries of letters, arts, and science ; and a still smaller republic in the valley of the Arno stepped into her place, as the Athens of the Middle Ages, and the cradle of the Renaissance. And as for England, the land of Shakespeare and Milton, of Newton, Locke, Adam Smith, Darwin and other epoch-makers of the past and the present : America's genial poet, Oliver Wendell Holmes, looking on the insular cradle of our common race from his own ample domain, exclaims with kindly irony :—

“His home ! The Western giant smiles,
And twirls the spotty globe to find it ;
This little speck the British Isles ?
’Tis but a freckle,—never mind it !”

But it is only to recall the words :—

“For Memory blushes at the sneer ;
And Honour turns with frown defiant ;
And Freedom, leaning on her spear,
Laughs louder than the laughing giant.

'An islet is a world,' she said,
Where glory with its dust has blended ;
And Britain keeps her noble dead
Till earth, and sea, and sky are rended.' "

We inherit the energy of the race that has made of England what she is ; and with it the heritage of her example, and the lessons which her history teaches. The capacity is ours ; let it find wise guidance, as it has ample scope ; and what may it not accomplish ? Our faith in the life that lies beyond earth's narrow span finds confirmation from the very insignificance of man's highest achievements here, compared with his capacities and aspirations. Yet here is your present field of action, in which you are called to play your part manfully ; ever keeping before you that higher life, of which this is but the probationary stage. Let it be vital with deeds, and not with boastful words. Science has come to your aid with appliances undreamt of till now. Philosophy turns aside from abstract speculation to solve the vexed problems of social and political life. With advantages rarely, if ever equalled, you enter on the inheritance of a virgin soil, with all the grand possibilities of a new era. But the willing hand of the industrious toiler will need the help of the keen intellect and the no less busy brain, if we would not be mere gleaners, loitering in the rear of a progressive age ; "reaping where we have not sown, and gathering where we have not strawed."
